



KO HEMA LAMALAMA –
A newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island
Reserve Commission (KIRC).

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Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala
Executive Director

SOL P. KAHŌ'OHALAHALA NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF KIRC

Sol P. Kaho'ohalahala has been selected as the new Executive Director of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. Prior to his selection, Kaho'ohalahala represented State House District 13, which includes Kaho'olawe, Molo-kini, Lāna'i, Moloka'i, Kalaupapa, Pā'ia, Ha'ikū, Ke'anae, Wailua, Nāhiku, Hāna, Kīpahulu and Kaupō.

Kaho'ohalahala began his political career in the Maui County Council in 1995 as the councilmember representing Lāna'i. He then served two terms (1998-2000, 2002-2004) in the State House of Representatives.

Selection Qualifications
According to Dr. Emmett Aluli, Chair of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission, "While the Commission was impressed with Kaho'ohalahala's political experience, the commissioners were even more impressed by his knowledge and expertise in conserving and restoring the cultural and natural resources of Lāna'i."

Kaho'ohalahala was born and raised on Lāna'i, sister island to Kaho'olawe, and recalled, "As children, growing up on Lāna'i, we

would feel the earth shake, hear the windows rattle and see the explosions at night during military exercises across the channel on Kaho'olawe." As a young man, Kaho'ohalahala became involved in the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana and the effort to stop the military bombing the island and has remained an active member of the organization for 28 years.

"My vision is to increase public awareness and support for the next phase of Kaho'olawe's restoration. We have an opportunity to do something extremely positive with the island. With *aloha 'āina* as our guiding principle, we can blend traditional Hawaiian wisdom and practices with today's technology to address the challenges faced in restoring the island. And we will share what we learn with Kaho'olawe's sister islands. In keeping with the Commission's mandate, we will prepare a foundation for self-governance for the Hawaiian people with aloha as its essence. Finally, we must develop and initiate a sustainable financial plan to support and fund these programs and ideas over the long term."

Newsletter of the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve

Winter 2005

Welcome to Ko Hema Lamalama, a newsletter declaring the news from Kaho'olawe. Uncle Harry Mitchell interpreted this name as the southern beacon, which served as a source of light to those weary travelers who voyaged beyond the pillars of Kahiki. Let Ko Hema Lamalama aid us in sharing a source of light about the island of Kaho'olawe and the restoration of Hawaiian culture across Hawai'i nei.

E Ola Mau Ke Ea A Kanaloa LET THE RESTORATION OF KANALOA LIVE FOREVER

On October 22, 1990, the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana stopped the bombing of Kaho'olawe by the U.S. Navy. Jets scheduled to make a bombing run of the island on that day were grounded at Mokapu Marine Corps Air Base. Thus began a process to heal the island, restore its natural and cultural resources, and return the island to the people of Hawai'i.

In May 1994, the U.S. Navy signed over title to Kaho'olawe to the State of Hawai'i. In April 2004, the U.S. Navy and its contractors finally departed.

In October 2004, along with the 14th anniversary of the cessation in bombing came the first occasion to welcome the early warriors back to the island for the first time since the U.S. Navy left.

The Early Warriors

Beginning in 1976, these early members of the 'Ohana carried out a series of occupations of the island that led to arrests and lengthy, expensive court defenses. These early warriors were sentenced to imprisonment or barred from returning to Kaho'olawe as long as the U.S. Navy controlled access. In some instances family, friends, and community ostracized them. The hardest loss was the tragic disappearance of George Helm and Kimo Mitchell, apparently in the waters surrounding the island, in their effort to stop the bombing.

The Reopening of Kaho'olawe

The gathering also marked the reopening of Kaho'olawe for the training of navigators. According to Native Hawaiian *kūpuna*, traditional chants and *mo'olelo*, or histories, described Kaho'olawe as a center for training navigators in wayfinding.

The island was originally named Kanaloa, the name of the Hawaiian god of the ocean. Mastery of navigation requires a complete spiritual and intellectual immersion into the natural elements of ocean, wind, currents, stars, moon, and sun.

One must come to know the nature and characteristics of Kanaloa, the Hawaiian god of these elements, to become a master way-finder and travel across his magnificent body form, the vast ocean. Kaho'olawe provides the ideal location to experience Kanaloa and train in wayfinding.

A New Generation of Navigators

The Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission and the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana invited the early warriors to Kaho'olawe to join in the reopening of the island as a training center for a new generation of navigators and to acknowledge the courageous efforts and sacrifices that have made the reopening possible.



(Left to Right) Conner Naho'opi'i, Jason Ampong, Derek Mar, Commissioner Robert Lu'uwai, Ka'uhane Lu'uwai, Andre Perez, Andre "Boy" Perez and Earl De Leon await arrival of the canoes.



Grand Master Navigator Mau Piailug of Satawal and the captains and crew-members of the eight voyaging canoes of Hawai'i helped the Commission and the 'Ohana dedicate an observation platform at *Lae 'o Kealaikahiki* (Point of the Pathway to Tahiti) for use as a center-piece in the education and training of novice navigators from all of the voyaging 'ohana. Representatives of the original Native Hawaiian families who lived on Kaho'olawe also participated.

The gathering was an opportunity to reconnect the early warriors and the

voyaging 'ohana with the island of Kanaloa. To demonstrate the resettlement of Kanaloa by these groups, the participants planted a grove of niu or coconut trees inland at Honokanai'a Bay. They also participated in an annual native planting ceremony at Moa'ulanui in anticipation of and as an attraction of the first rains of the season.



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Preserving Hawaiian Traditions KAHO'OLawe SITE DEDICATED AS NAVIGATION TRAINING CENTER

While ancient voyagers navigated the Pacific Ocean in double-hulled canoes, Hawai'i remained isolated to all but a few master explorers skilled in charting the course north of the equator. This art of wayfinding—using only the stars, weather, and ocean currents made it possible for Hawai'i to be settled by early Polynesians.

Although *mo'olelo*, or histories, recount much travel between Hawai'i and the South Pacific, by the time 18th century Europeans first reached Hawai'i's shores, voyaging between Hawai'i and the rest of Polynesia had been dormant for more than 400 years.

Rediscovering Hawaiian Traditions

In 1976, two lives were born. The Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana, guided by *kūpuna* and driven to stop the military assault on Kaho'olawe and reclaim the sacred island, was formed. That same year, the Polynesian Voyaging Society built its first double-hulled canoe and sailed it to Tahiti without benefit of modern navigational instruments, thereby reviving the Hawaiian science of long-distance voyaging. These parallel movements led the rebirth and rediscovery of Hawaiian traditions, culture, and pride.

An Ideal Location for Navigators

Positioned at the *piko* (navel) of the Hawaiian Islands, Kaho'olawe is also named for Kanaloa, the Hawaiian deity of navigation and the deep ocean. *Pu'u 'o Moa'ulaiki*, a high point on the island, is the site of *Pōhaku Ahu'aikūpelekapili o Keaweiki*, the Stone of Deep Magic of Keaweiki, a navigational heiau from where the rotation of the stars, the currents in the channels, and the movements of the clouds can easily be observed.

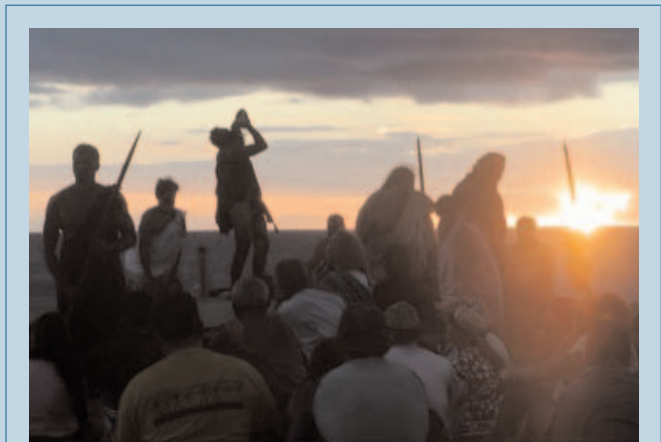
Lae 'o Kealaikahiki, an ancient outcropping of rocks located at the island's westernmost tip, provides an unobstructed view of both horizons where *Hōkū pa'a* (the North Star) and *Hānaiakamalama* (the Southern Cross) can be seen from the water's edge.

The Bailey House Museum KAHO'OLawe COLLECTION

For students, scholars, and others with an interest in Kaho'olawe, the Bailey House Museum offers a wealth of information.

The museum's Kaho'olawe collection consists of documentation and artifacts associated with all archaeological field activities conducted on Kaho'olawe under the auspices of the United States Department of the Navy between 1976 and 1983.

In 1981, a portion of this collection was transmitted to the Maui Historical Society and Bailey House



Upon the setting of the sun, on Friday, October 22, 2004, Papa Mau Pailug of Satawal led the community of traditional Pacific voyaging in the dedication of the navigational training platform at Kealaikahiki. Mo'o Lono of the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana along with Nā'alapa conducted the ceremonies to dedicate the navigational platform for teachers and students of Pacific navigation to use in their training. The platform is built of rock and coral from the shores of Lae 'O Kealaikahiki.

From this sea level vantage point, apprentice navigators can study the relative positions of the rising and setting constellations and individual stars. In addition, Kealaikahiki's location at the latitudinal center of the major Hawaiian Islands makes it ideal for navigators to find their direction home.

Welcoming the Voyaging 'Ohana

Voyaging 'ohana from throughout the Hawaiian Islands converged on Kaho'olawe on October 22, 2004, for an event called *E Ola Mau Ke Ea a Kanaloa: The Restoration of Kanaloa Shall Live Forever*. Three Hawaiian canoes—*Hōkūle'a*, *Makali'i* and *Hōkūalaka'i*—arrived at Honokanai'a to recognize the significance of Kaho'olawe. An observational platform at Kealaikahiki, or *Pathway to Kahiki*, was dedicated and the site was opened for ongoing use as a navigational training center.

Forgotten memories of a more verdant past, this begins a new phase towards its restoration and meaningful use. It is another step toward establishing Kaho'olawe's role in the preservation and perpetuation of Hawaiian traditions.

Museum in Wailuku, Maui for curative and archival services. The collection includes photos, field records, lab records, reports, newspaper and magazine clippings, reference materials, and artifacts.

Researchers who wish to use this collection, like all researchers at Maui Historical Society, will be required to comply with the general access and use conditions of the Maui Historical Society. All who wish to use materials in this collection are encouraged to contact the Maui Historical Society Executive Director, Roslyn Lightfoot, in advance of any visit.



(From top to bottom) Kupuna Eddie Ka'anana and Grand Master Navigator Mau Pailug await landfall of voyaging canoes at Honokanai'a. (2) Original Hōkūle'a 1976 voyage crew members (left to right) Nainoa Thompson, Billy Richards, Tava Teikiheeipo, Buffalo Keaulana, Boogie Kalama, Atwood Makanani, Snake AhHee, Penny Rawlins Martin, and John Kruse (kneeling). (3) Former Commissioner Mike Wilson, Former Executive Directors Keoni Fairbanks and Stanton Enomoto, and Commission Chair Dr. Emmett Aluli. (4) Auntie Ulu Garmon and Auntie Frenchie DeSoto. (5) Kawai Warren, Loretta Ritte, Joyce Kainoa and Walter Ritte. (6) Ka'ohiki—named in honor of Kupuna Alice Kuloloio—is carried to shore at Honokanai'a by members of Hui Wa'a O Kaho'olawe.

2004-2005 PLANTING SEASON BEGINS

The 2004-2005 KIRC planting season officially opened on October 23, 2004. The planting ceremony overflowed with prayers, chants and *ho'okupu* that were offered by nearly 200 participants at the rain *ko'a* or shrines standing at the summit of Kaho'olawe at Moa'ulanui.

The purpose of this ceremony is to call upon the Nāulu rains which bridge between Kaho'olawe and South Maui. These rains are an essential element in the restoration of Kanaloa.

Following the ceremony, participants feasted on a traditional *'aha 'aina* and then followed that with a pilgrimage to the summit of Moa'ulaiki.



Rain Ko'a after ceremony at the summit of Moa'ulanui.